THE PACIFIC CONCHOLOGICAL CLUB.

BY CHESTER STOCK, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

There has long been felt the need of an organization on the Pacific coast which would be valuable to the amateur collector, to the conchologist, and to those using conchology as supplementary to their studies in zoölogy and palaeontology. With such a combined purpose in view, an organization known as the Pacific Conchological Club has recently received its initial start at the University of California. It is to be hoped that the beneficent effects of a society of this sort will stimulate still further interest in conchology as a science on this coast.

The occasional meetings which will be held will bring the conchologist in touch with the invertebrate zoölogist and palaeontologist and with their problems in which conchology so often plays an important rôle. Furthermore, it is the desire of the society to ultimately establish at the university one of the largest collections of shells on the coast. This collection will be augmented from time to time by the results of excursions to the beaches and through the medium of exchange.

On April 23d a meeting was held at the University of California, at which time Mr. B. L. Clark reported on the molluscan fauna of Bolinas Bay, California. A representative collection of this fauna was obtained on a recent excursion held under the auspices of the society. Other features of the program were a discussion on the factors controlling the distribution of mollusks by Dr. F. B. Sumner, and a report by Prof. W. J. Raymond on a thesis entitled, "Variations in the Forms of *Thais* found on the Pacific Coast," by Bertha M. Challis, of the University of Washington.

THE ZOÖLOGICAL STATION AT NAPLES.

BY MAXWELL SMITH.

(*Concluded from page 6.*)

Continuing the account of our dredging trip in the Bay of Naples, on board of the "Johannis Müller," the second haul was in 150 feet

of water and resulted in the capture of a dozen living *Scaphander lignarius*, L., the animal of which is much larger than the shell.

The third haul was in 450 feet of water on mud bottom, which seemed a more congenial home for mollusks. This time the net came up quite full. Its contents were washed cleaner of mud by running the steamer full speed ahead before lifting the net over the rail. The more delicate fish and other animals were removed first, then the mud was scooped up by hand after it had been deposited on the deck. A quantity at a time was then placed in one of two trays in a sifting box, sea water was poured over these, the upper retaining the larger and the lower the smaller objects, the mud and water passing out of an opening below. In this way the material was quickly separated. The larger animals were put immediately into jars of sea water, arranged in baskets on the deck, while the smaller were placed in buckets to be examined and sorted later. Among many small forms I noticed the following:

Hyalaea tridentata Forsk.
Aeolis sp.
Fusus rostratus Olivi.
Nassa limata Chem.
Pecten flexuosus Poli.
Pecten pes-felis L.

At 3 p. m. it was necessary to return, as the catch might have been spoiled by the swell which grew stronger. Upon our arrival in Naples the material was at once transferred to the zoölogical station. The animals which are to be preserved are treated with cocaine. In the case of the mollusca this leaves them extended from the shell, as in life. A 75 per cent. solution of alcohol is finally used for their preservation. The institution issues a priced catalogue, and the specimens are sold and delivered to museums in all parts of the world.

At the time of this writing the zoölogical station is building a much larger steamer for dredging, so that in the future the work will not be restricted to the Bay of Naples, but will include Sicily and the adjacent coasts. This boat will have a laboratory, library, and cabins for sleeping on board, besides more powerful dredging machinery for work in still deeper water. It is to be hoped that the Mediterranean, with its rich cosmopolitan fauna, will soon be better known from a biological point of view.